

IN THE SPECIFICATION (as originally filed):

On page 1, after the title please insert the following:

This is the U.S. national phase of International Application No. PCT/DE03/02666 filed August 15, 2003, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

The heading on page 1, line 3 has been changed as follows:

~~Description:~~ Field of the Disclosure

The paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5 has been changed as follows:

The ~~invention~~ disclosure relates to a method and to a device for the transmission of notifications by means of a notification component to users of an electronic parcel compartment system within a postal shipping system in which data from at least one database is transmitted to a central sending component, where it is converted into notification information and the notification information is transmitted to a communication interface and from the communication interface to at least one receiving device, whereby notification jobs are stored in a storage module and at least some of the requests for the transmission of notifications are transmitted by a control circuit to the storage module and a reading module acquires the notification jobs contained in the storage module and transmits them to the central sending component.

On page 1, line 7 please add a paragraph as follows:

The disclosure also relates to a device for the transmission of notifications to users of an electronic parcel compartment system within a postal shipping system having at least one

database, one central sending component and one communication interface for the transmission of the notification information to receiving devices.

The paragraph beginning on page 1, line 8 has been changed as follows:

The ~~invention~~ disclosure especially relates to a method and to a device to inform senders or recipients of mailpieces about the status of the shipment.

On page 1, line 11 please add a heading as follows:

Related Technology

On page 1, line 25 please add a paragraph and a heading as follows:

Moreover, U.S. Pat. No. 6,047,264 discloses a method for the transmission of the status of a shipment of a user in which an entry is generated in a central database when a user orders a shipment. If the status of the shipment changes, for example, when it is transferred to a delivery company, when it is transported to different stations or when it is dropped off at the destination, the status change is recorded in the database. This recording can be done manually or electronically. A notification component continuously uses a query module to query status changes in the database and generates messages to the appertaining users about a shipment for which the status has changed. The notification is preferably done by e-mail.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The paragraphs beginning on page 1, line 26 have been changed as follows:

The ~~invention~~ disclosure is based on the objective of developing a method of the generic type that allows the most reliable and quickest possible individual notification of users of an electronic parcel compartment system.

In particular, the ~~invention~~ disclosed method and device should be suitable for the transmission of individual notifications to numerous users of an electronic parcel compartment system.

~~According to the invention, this objective is achieved in that~~ Accordingly, a method of the generic type is carried out in such a way that data from at least one database is transmitted to a central sending component (ZVK), where it is converted into notification information, and in that the notification information is transmitted to a communication interface and from the communication interface to one or more receiving devices.

On page 2, line 6 please add a paragraph as follows:

Here, a method of this generic type is carried out in such a way that a method of the generic type is carried out in such a way that data from at least one database is transmitted to a central sending component (ZVK), where it is converted into notification information, and in that the notification information is transmitted to a communication interface and from the communication interface to one or more receiving devices.

The paragraph beginning on page 2, line 7 has been changed as follows:

~~An~~ In an especially preferred embodiment ~~of the invention is characterized in that~~, using at least one template, the central sending component converts the data transmitted from the database into the notification information. The template is created, for example, on the basis of XSL:FO (eXtensible Stylesheet Language Formatting Objects). It is especially advantageous to add data to a template.

The paragraph beginning on page 2, line 28 has been changed as follows:

~~An~~ In an especially advantageous variant of this embodiment is characterized in that a reading module acquires the notification jobs contained in the storage module and transmits them to the central sending component.

The paragraph beginning on page 3, line 4 has been changed as follows:

Such an integration of externally transmitted information is advantageous especially when the ~~invention is~~ method and disclosure are used in a shipping logistic system. In this manner, information that is relevant for the logistic process, especially about the arrival of shipments, for example, mailpieces, at prescribed destinations, can be acquired and integrated into the notification system.

The paragraph beginning on page 3, line 24 has been changed as follows:

Moreover, the ~~invention comprises~~ disclosure provides a logistic system with at least one means to transmit notifications to users of the logistic system.

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1 has been changed as follows:

Additional advantages, special features and practical refinements of the invention ~~ensue from the subordinate claims and~~ follow from the ~~presentation~~ description below of preferred embodiments making reference to the drawings.

On page 4, line 4 please insert a heading as follows:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 5, line 19 please add a heading as follows:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The paragraph beginning on page 5, line 20 has been changed as follows:

The use of the methods and devices for notification according to the ~~invention~~ disclosure will be described below.

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 27 has been changed as follows:

The ~~invention~~ disclosure is limited neither to the depicted embodiments nor to the use in a logistic system. However, it is especially advantageous to equip a logistic system with the notification components described.

The paragraph beginning on page 9, line 22 has been changed as follows:

An especially preferred embodiment ~~of the invention~~ is characterized by the use of different classes of notifications. Preferably, a distinction is made between virtual classes and singleton classes.

The paragraph beginning on page 12, line 32 has been changed as follows:

The notification component ~~according to the invention~~ is an integral part of a logistic system according to the ~~invention~~ disclosure.